

WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL
DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1949.

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

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Wellingborough Rural District.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1949.

Area (acres)	33,115
Population 1931 (Census)	12,760
Population 1949	12,960
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census) ...	3,558
" " " " 1949	4,209
Rateable value 1949	£54,795
Product of a penny rate, 1949	£209

Live Births	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	195	101	94	
Illegitimate	10	3	7	
	205	104	101	15.81

Stillbirths	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	5	2	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	5	2	3	.38

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	172	87	85	13.27

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	<i>Rate</i>
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	—
Total	Nil.

Infant Mortality—rate per thousand live births.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	7	4	3	35.89
Illegitimate	1	—	1	100.
Total	8	4	4	39.02

Deaths from	Cancer (All ages)	16
„	„ Measles (All ages)	nil
„	„ Whooping Cough (All ages)	nil
„	„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	nil

Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. T. REYNOLDS, C.C. (*Chairman*), S. B. WOODROW (*Vice-Chairman*), REV. F. A. SADLER, F. BOULTON, A. J. DANDO, W. T. DRAGE, T. P. ROBERTS, R. J. SANDERS, B. A. J. TAYLOR, G. J. THOMPSON, J. M. THOMPSON, D. S. WILSON, C.C.

Public Health Officer of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., 1st February, 1949.

also holds appointment of :

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

GEOFFREY HERBERT COWLES, Certified S.I.B.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SWANSPOOL,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

July, 1950.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District Council
of Wellingborough.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1949. The Birth Rate (15.81) shows a slight decline on that for the previous year but is only .9 below the rate for England and Wales for the same period which was 16.7 per 1,000 Civilian Population. The Death Rate was 13.27 per thousand and was 1.28 higher than the rate for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate was 39.02 per thousand live births and shows a considerable fall on the figures for the previous year when the rate was 58.55. The rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 32.

The commoner Infectious Diseases, Measles and Whooping Cough showed a fall, Scarlet Fever a slight increase over the figures for the previous year. This is the third year when the District has been free of a case of Diphtheria and it is satisfactory to note the number of children who have been immunised. Five cases of Poliomyelitis occurred with one death. This disease always causes much concern and in the past was the cause of crippling. Following the infectious stage, cases now pass onto the Orthopaedic Hospital for treatment and this should do much to avoid severe crippling.

An outbreak of Salmonella Food Poisoning occurred during the period and an account of this will be found under Section F.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis showed an increase of three on the number for the previous year.

The number of applicants for houses continues to grow and the housing situation remains acute. The situation in some of the villages is unsatisfactory and the hold-up by the Ministry of certain Sewage Disposal Schemes is causing delay in areas which require urgent attention.

I should like to emphasise the necessity for the taking of routine water samples of the different supplies to the villages. In the interest of Health this must be done and already good results have been achieved from work carried out in this line.

I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received in compiling this Report from Mr. Cowles, the Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Sheffield, the Surveyor. I appreciate very much the assistance I have received during the year from Members of the Health Committee and also from Officials of the Council.

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.—The area of the district is 33,155 acres with a density of population of one person per 2.6 acres. Housing factor 3.1 persons per house.

Population.—The population for the area is given as follows in Registrar General's returns :—

Civilian 12,960 total 12,990.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths during the year was 33.

Deaths.—Following the necessary adjustment for inward and outward transferable deaths, the Registrar General in his returns states 172 deaths occurred in the area during 1949. This gives a death rate of 13.27 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Last year the total deaths for the area was 153 which gave a rate of 11.99. The rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 11.7.

A classification of the causes of death in accordance with the International list of causes of death (1938) is given on page 16 Table No. 1

Table No. 2 page 17 gives deaths from selected causes with rates per thousand of the population.

Births.—205 births were recorded for the area during the year. This gives a rate of 15.81 per thousand of the population and shows a decrease on the figures for last year when the rate was 17.39 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 16.7.

Stillbirths.—Five stillbirths were reeegistered (2 males, 3 females). This gives a rate of 0.38 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales during the same period was 0.39.

Illegitimate Birth Rate.—Ten illegitimate births were registered, three males and seven females. This gives a rate of 48.78 per 1,000 live births as compared with 72.07 per thousand last year.

Maternal Mortality.—No death was recorded under this heading.

Infant Mortality.—Eight infant deaths were recorded during the year. Four of these deaths were in male infants and four in female. One female infant was illegitimate. This gives an infant mortality rate of 39.02 per thousand live births. This figure shows a considerable decrease on last year when 13 infant deaths were recorded with a rate of 58.55. The rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 32 per 1,000 live births.

Neonatal Mortality.—All infant deaths that occur within 28 days of independent existence come under this heading. Six of the eight deaths that occurred fell into this class. This gives a rate of 29.26 per 1,000 live births. Last year there were eleven deaths in this group which gave a rate of 49.54 per thousand live births.

Table 11 page 23 gives the cause of death of children under one year of age.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.—The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital provides facilities for the Bacteriological examination of Specimens sent from the District. Such specimens are in connection with Infectious or Communicable Diseases and the assistance of Dr. Hoyle who is in charge of the Laboratory is very much appreciated.

Water samples for Bacteriological examination are also sent to this Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.—A supply of Diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Department, Swanspool, Wellingborough and is available for use by Practitioners in the area as required.

Ambulance Facilities.—The St. John Ambulance Brigade provides this service and has two divisions, one in Wellingborough with three Ambulances and one in Finedon with one Ambulance. They serve both the Wellingborough Urban District and the Rural area. Details of the number of journeys made during the year and mileage are as follows :—

No. of cases.	Mileage.
931	18,658.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed by the Ambulance Service attached to the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, by the Hospital Authorities on request.

Nursing in the Home.—The following table shows the work carried out in the district by the Midwives and General Nurses.

<i>Association</i>			<i>Cases Nursed</i>			<i>Total</i>
			<i>General</i>	<i>Midwifery</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Wollaston	...	...	160	5	17	3,870
Ecton	...	...	3	—	3	152
Little Harrowden	...	...	11	5	8	336
Great Harrowden	...	...	1	1	1	42
Bozeat	...	...	22	5	1	414
Grendon	...	...	5	4	—	162
Easton Maudit	...	...	5	1	—	88
Great Irchester	...	...	46	4	18	1,819
Little Irchester	...	...	—	—	4	74
Newton Bromswold	...	...	1	—	—	12
Isham	...	...	3	1	3	172
Mears Ashby	...	...	11	—	2	190
Sywell	...	...	6	—	—	386
Earls Barton	...	...	96	—	8	1,520
Hardwick	...	...	6	1	—	72
*Wilby	...	...		
*Great Doddington	...	...		
*Orlingbury	...	...		
TOTAL	...	...	376	27	65	9,309

* Figures for these parishes not available.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals in the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—Child Welfare Clinics organised and run by the County Council are held twice a month at the following villages :—Earls Barton, Irchester and Wollaston. A Doctor is in attendance at these clinics once per month and Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out on that day.

Antenatal and postnatal clinics are held weekly at the County Buildings, Northampton, on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Similar Clinics are held at Rushden on Tuesday mornings and Wellingborough on Thursday mornings when persons from the area may attend.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.—Accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases from the area is provided at the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

Six patients were admitted from the area during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Although details concerning the water supply of the different villages in the district were given last year, as certain changes have taken place since then, and also the Ministry requested the inclusion of details concerning water supply in this year's Annual Reports, the supply for each village is given again.

The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Joint Water Board supplies the following villages :—Wollaston, Bozeat, Strixton, Irchester, Great Doddington, Ecton. Mears Ashby, which at present depends upon wells for its water supply is to be supplied by the Board and the scheme for this supply is now under way.

The water supplies of the Board are obtained from three sources :

- (1) The impounding reservoir at Sywell.
- (2) Wells—Nene Gravels at Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston.
- (3) Wells—Sand, situated about half a mile N.W. of the village of Wymington.

The Sywell works which were opened in 1906 consist of an impounding reservoir fed by rainfall and springs and surface water from the surrounding catchment area and has a capacity of about 236,000,000 gallons when full. This figure is probably considerably reduced now by deposits of sand in the reservoir.

Treatment of water from this source is as follows. Water is gravitated from the reservoir to three open slow sand filters and after filtration passes to a circular clear water tank of 150,000 gallons capacity. From this it passes to the pump well where it is then chlorinated and passed on into circulation. This water has a hardness of about 13.4 parts per 100,000 and is described as a slightly hard water.

Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston. These works were opened in 1939 and consist of wells in the Nene Gravels. A 72 h.p. electrical pump, capable of pumping 30,000 gallons per hour was installed in 1944. The water which is chlorinated is filtered under pressure in two 8 feet diameter pressure filters, which have a total area of 100 square feet, at a rate of 160 gallons per square foot per hour.

This water has a hardness of 21.2 parts per 100,000 and is a hard water.

The Wymington Wells are sunk in sand and their depth varies from 26 to 31 feet. They are brick lined and have a diameter of $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. A service reservoir with a capacity of 262,500 gallons is provided and this is connected to the Rushden reservoir by an 8 inch pipe.

This water with 33.9 parts per 100,000 is a very hard or excessively hard water.

These works are held in reserve in case of emergency. A water with over 30 parts per 100,000 should be softened but only one of the three sources fall into this category, and it is only used in an emergency.

Earls Barton. Source, springs in the Parish of Gt. Doddington and wells in the Nene river gravels. Treatment, chlorination only, no filtration. It has been found that following flooding of land in the vicinity of the Gravel wells by the river Nene that samples of water show a rise in the bacteriological counts. After flooding there is more suspended solids in the water and this absorbs chlorine and thus there is less free chlorine left in the water to act on the bacteria. During the year when flooding occurred water from the wells in the river gravels had to be reduced to a minimum and the supply was then drawn mostly from the springs in the Doddington area.

Pollution of this source by oil occurred during the year and caused much concern. It was caused by parts of the contents of a barrel of diesel oil contaminating the surface of the ground in the vicinity of the pump house dealing with water from the springs. Only very small quantities reached the supply by means of the subsoil water, but smell caused a nuisance. The ground was dug up and new pipes installed.

This has actually brought about an improvement in the yield from these springs as the former pipes used were not of a satisfactory nature. A high standard of purity of samples from Earls Barton has at last been reached, but it is a source that requires constant watching and routine weekly samples are now taken. Earls Barton will at a future date be taken over by the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board for its water supply.

Wilby. Source, shallow well situated in a field near the village and in close proximity to Wilby Lido. This well must to some extent tap the subsoil water in the area and its count shows great variation. It is not safe water and has given a series of bad counts. The activities in the surrounding fields would appear to influence it to some extent and as the water is untreated, villagers have been advised to boil water before use for human consumption.

Wilby is, at some future date, to be supplied by the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board.

Orlingbury, Little Harrowden, Hardwick and Isham receive a supply of raw water from Wells situated at Orlingbury. This supply belonged to the Wellingborough Urban District but now the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board.

At Isham their own well supply is supplemented by a supply from this source.

Grendon and Easton Maudit receive a piped supply from springs in the vicinity of the village of Grendon. This water is untreated.

Great Harrowden is served by wells and will eventually be connected to Little Harrowden for a Public piped supply.

Newton Bromswold piped supply provided to village. Water obtained from Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council.

Sywell. Piped supply from Northampton Borough. In Sywell all houses unfortunately have not water laid on and still depend upon wells. The village school has no piped supply and samples taken from the well were found to be unsatisfactory.

The value of the taking of frequent routine samples of water for bacteriological examination has proved itself during the year, and has been the means of detecting trouble at an early stage which required prompt action. It is necessary for villages that received untreated water.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage.—A brief summary of the different methods adopted for the villages is given below with remarks as to whether considered satisfactory or otherwise.

Bozeat—broad irrigation—unsatisfactory. During the period under review water was only installed to this village and bucket latrines were widely used. Now that a piped water supply has been laid on to this village, a satisfactory sewage disposal plant is required and a scheme for this has been approved and the matter is in hand.

Great Doddington—septic tanks and broad irrigation. Not very satisfactory.

Earls Barton—broad irrigation—unsatisfactory. This is a matter that requires attention and it would appear that the only satisfactory solution is the construction of a proper disposal plant.

Easton Maudit—Septic tank. New houses under construction to be provided with a small plant.

Ecton—Central beds and irrigation. This would appear to be satisfactory.

Grendon—Open ditches. Some houses have their own septic tanks or cess pits and effluent from these to sewer and then to open ditches. Final disposal not satisfactory.

Hardwick—Septic tank.

Harrowden, Great—Septic tank.

Harrowden, Little—Tanks, filters and broad irrigation. Not satisfactory.

Irchester—Settling tanks, broad irrigation.

Isham—Tanks, filters, irrigation. Not satisfactory but scheme to connect up with Kettering in the future.

Mears Ashby—Tanks, filters and irrigation.

Newton Bromswold—One small settling tanks, then to open ditch. New houses, small plant to be installed.

Orlingbury—open ditches—not satisfactory.

Strixton—open ditches—not satisfactory.

Sywell—modern works built by R.A.F.

Wilby—Receiving tank—pumping station—broad irrigation. This works not operating satisfactorily. When effluent pumped up to field not being properly spread over field but returning to brook in a channel and thus polluting Swanspool brook. Scheme for sewage to be taken into Wellingborough sewers suggested for the future.

Wollaston—modern works—sewers, settling tanks, filter beds.
Future Plans :—Sewage Schemes.

Grendon—A Public enquiry was held on 15th April, 1948 re the provision of a Sewage Disposal system. Still awaiting.

Orlingbury, Little Harrowden, Great Harrowden—A Public enquiry was held at Little Harrowden on the 23rd September, 1948 re the provision of a Sewage Disposal system. Pending—it is essential that this scheme should be gone ahead with as building of new houses is being held up on account of the lack of sewage disposal system.

The situation with regard to houses at Orlingbury is very bad and many families are living under extremely bad conditions.

Bozeat—Scheme in hand.

From the above it will be seen that considerable undertakings with regard to Sewage Disposal require to be carried out in the Rural area and the putting off of proposed schemes is a serious matter. If the economical situation is such that large sums of money are not available, at least a start on the smaller schemes could be made. Putting off the evil day is not going to help and as such work is in the best interest of Public Health, surely it must be considered of paramount importance.

Swimming Baths.—There are two open air baths in the area. One at Wilby and the second at Overstone. At both swimming pools water is treated by filtration and chlorination with a 3 to 4 hour turn over. Samples of water tested for free chlorine showed at both pools chlorine present in .5 parts per million. A series of samples taken for bacteriological examination from both pools proved the water to be satisfactory. No bad samples were obtained. As schools in the area make use of the Wilby pool, particular attention has been paid to this place.

Disinfection.—Concurrent and terminal disinfection was carried out by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants in houses where infectious diseases occurred. Details of this work is given in Table No. 13 page 25.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—No action was necessary.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, Infestation Order, 1943.—Advice and assistance have been given by the Sanitary Inspector in appropriate cases.

Public Cleansing.—The scheme for the collection of refuse is as follows :

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Day</i>				<i>Tip</i>
Bozeat	...	...	...	Tuesday	...	...	...	Irchester
Doddington, Great	...	...	...	Wednesday	...	...	...	Irchester
Earls Barton	...	...	...	Thursday and Friday	...	...	...	Earls Barton
Easton Maudit	...	...	...	Friday	...	...	...	Irchester
Ecton	...	...	...	Wednesday	...	...	...	Earls Barton
Grendon	...	...	...	Friday	...	...	...	Irchester
Hardwick	...	...	...	Wednesday	...	...	...	Irchester
Harrowden, Great	...	...	...	Thursday	...	...	...	Irchester
Harrowden, Little	...	...	...	Thursday	...	...	...	Irchester
Irchester	...	...	...	Monday and Wednesday	...	...	...	Irchester
Isham	...	...	...	Monday	...	...	...	Irchester
Mears Ashby...	...	...	...	Monday	...	...	...	Earls Barton
Newton Bromswold	...	...	...	Alternate Wednesdays	...	...	...	Irchester
Orlingbury	...	...	...	Thursday	...	...	...	Irchester
Strixton	...	...	...	Tuesday	...	...	...	Irchester
Sywell	...	...	...	Wednesday	...	...	...	Earls Barton
Wilby	...	...	...	Thursday	...	...	...	Earls Barton
Wollaston	...	...	...	Tuesday	...	...	...	Irchester

Further details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector are given in Table 13 page 25.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Seventy-eight houses were completed during the year. Of these twenty were Swedish Timber houses, 20 Airey houses and the remainder traditional type. Approval for the construction of a further sixty-six houses was given and work commenced on these houses during the period.

Fifteen houses were completed by Private Enterprise and thirteen licences were granted during the period. Approval was given to convert two buildings into accommodation for 13 family units. These premises were :—

(1) White House Farm, Orlingbury—to provide accommodation for two families.

(2) Manor House, Earls Barton—to provide for eleven family units. As on the 31.12.49 the building programme was as follows :

Total number of houses under construction 278.

Of this number 206 houses were completed and as stated 78 during the period under review with work commencing on a further 66 during the year.

Notwithstanding all this activity there still remains in the area a great demand for more houses. At the end of the year there were 533 'live' applicants for Council houses on the books, which shows an increase of 45 compared with the numbers at the end of 1948. Also from the survey of housing made in 1946 it was learnt that there were 619 houses in the area unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense. Even assuming that not all of these houses are at present occupied, the number that require re-housing from these premises is very considerable.

The housing situation is a grave one, and it would appear that it is a social problem that is going to be with us for a very considerable number of years. Present methods for dealing with it have not proved successful and it is plain that some alternative scheme will have to be produced. It is not a situation that should be allowed to linger on, and, like a cancer, sap the very vitals of our people.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926.—The number of cowsheds on the register as at 31st December, 1949 was 90 and the following inspections were carried out by the Inspector.

Cowsheds, Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	165
Cowsheds, Defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	4
Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	36
						228

There are six producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 20 producers of Accredited Milk in the District.

Milk Supply.—Samples of Milk taken during the course of delivery to the consumers have been submitted at regular intervals to the County Laboratory for examination as to cleanliness and keeping quality. The samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test to determine if the milk will be sufficiently fresh to be drinkable for some 24 hours after delivery to the consumers. The number of samples submitted and the classification of the results were :—

<i>Classification</i>	1947 <i>No.</i>	1948 <i>No.</i>	1949 <i>No.</i>
Good	84	91	30
Moderate	9	5	2
Bad	3	6	4
	96	102	36

Further details of the results of the tests are given in Table No. 14 page 26.

Food Premises.—The following visits of Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	284
Visits to Butchers' Shops			...	...	76
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	28
					<hr/> 388 <hr/>

During the year 825 lbs. of tinned and other foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Meat Inspection.—All the meat for the majority of the district is slaughtered and inspected at the Co-operative Abattoir, Rushden, which was taken over by the Ministry of Food in January, 1940. The meat sold in Isham and Ecton is slaughtered at Kettering and Northampton respectively.

651 pigs and sheep slaughtered under Licence for private consumption were inspected at time of slaughter. 467 lbs. condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Northamptonshire Clean Food Guild.—Steps for the inauguration of such a Guild were taken during the year. A conference of Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors was held at Northampton to discuss the setting up of such a Guild. At this meeting it was agreed that there existed in the County a need for a Guild and a sub-committee was appointed to draw up the constitution of a committee to run such a Guild, and rules and regulations and Codes of Practice. This was done and officials reported back to their respective authorities. A further meeting was held with representatives from the different authorities in the County and as a result of this meeting it was decided to form a Northamptonshire Clean Food Guild, to be constituted on the lines suggested in the report of the sub-committee. It is to be hoped that the Guild will be a success, as undoubtedly there is a need for such a movement, as the number of outbreaks of Food Poisoning is on the increase and greater care in the handling and protection of food is required.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox.—No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.—20 cases were notified in the area as compared with 16 for the previous year. The majority of cases were of a mild nature.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The following table shows the number of children in the area that have been immunised at Welfare Clinics as at 31st December, 1949. It does not take into account the number of children immunised by private arrangements.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.								
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949.								
Age at 31.12.49 i.e. born in yr	<i>Under</i> 1 1 2 3 4 1949 1948 1947 1946 1945					5 to 9 1940-1944	10 to 14 1935-1939	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	5	130	147	129	138	658	811	2,018
Estimated mid-year population 1949	1,091					1,567		2,658
Number of children immunised during the year 1949 :—								
<i>Under 5 years</i>			<i>5—14 years</i>			<i>Booster Doses</i>		
165			1			47		

Diphtheria.—This is the third year in which no cases have been notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—One case was notified.

Poliomyelitis.—Five cases were notified, two cases were amongst children and the three remaining were adults. One death in an adult occurred due to this cause. With the exception of two cases which occurred in the one household, the other three cases had no connection with one another and occurred in widely separated districts.

Influenza.—Three deaths were attributed to this cause.

Pneumonia.—15 cases were notified (acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia being notifiable). 13 deaths in which Pneumonia was the primary cause of death were recorded.

Erysipelas.—Four cases were notified. Last year there were five cases.

Measles.—Thirty-five cases occurred during the year. Last year there were 195 cases. Analysis for Measles and Whooping Cough giving details concerning age and sex incidence are given in Table 10, page 22.

Whooping Cough.—29 cases occurred during the period. Last year 30 cases occurred.

Dysentery.—One case was notified.

Typhoid Fever.—No case was notified but one case of Paratyphoid occurred at Ecton.

Food Poisoning.—Seventeen cases of Food Poisoning occurred during the period. The first case occurred in the first quarter of the year, none in the second quarter, fifteen in the third quarter and one in the last quarter. All cases were due to *Salmonella Typhimurium* infection. Exhaustive investigations were carried out to see if any common food factor could be found but with the exception of three cases which had Duck Eggs from the same source nothing was discovered. Even in the case of the Duck Eggs nothing could be proved as no infected eggs were obtained. The cases presented a puzzling picture as they were scattered and only in two instances did more than one case occur in the same household. In the majority of cases investigated all members of the

household had partaken of the same food and yet only one member was infected. Samples of the following varieties of food were examined but all gave negative results :

Dried egg powder ; cakes with cream ; duck eggs ; frozen eggs (Chinese) ; tinned broths ; National dried milk ; meat ; remnants of meals from houses where cases occurred.

Rushden Abattoir investigated re killings with special attention to casuals.

Food manufacturing premises inspected and investigated concerning cases of diarrhoea amongst employees. No positive results were obtained from above investigations. In certain areas where bucket latrines were in use the infection may have been spread by flies and in certain instances by contamination of hands and subsequent contamination of food. Flies are a known carrier of this disease. No fatal cases occurred in the district.

Other cases occurred in the third quarter of the year in adjoining districts and Kettering also had an outbreak. Phage typing of cultures of the organism showed it to be Vi-phage type 1, and this showed it to be the same strain which caused similar cases in other districts and in Kettering. No common food factor or infected food was found in these areas either.

Opthalmia Neonatorum.—No notifications were received during the year.

Tuberculosis.—13 cases of Tuberculosis were notified and of these 12 were of pulmonary infections and one non-pulmonary. Eight males and four females had pulmonary infections and the one non-pulmonary case occurred in a male. Last year ten cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and two cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Three deaths occurred during the year from Tuberculosis, one male and two females.

Table No. 6, page 18, gives the age and sex incidence of new cases and deaths from the disease.

The mortality rate from the disease in the area was .23 per 1,000 of the population and shows a fall of .16 in the rate for the previous year.

Seven persons were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and four were discharged during the year.

At the end of the year there were 66 cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the area.

51 Pulmonary cases (32 males, 19 females) and
15 non-pulmonary (9 males and 6 females).

Full statistical details for Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis are given in Tables No. 6—10, pages 18—22.

SECTION G.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The provision of Sanitary conveniences in the case of all factories in the area, are on the whole satisfactory. In those factories where mechanical power is not used, provision as to—cleanliness, number employed, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors, there was no cause for serious complaint. There was no action necessary in respect of Homework (sections 110 and 111). Form 572 (Revised) has been abridged and is given in Table No. 16, page 27.

SECTION H.
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1949.

TABLE NO. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	2	3
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	3
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	...	1	—	1
12.	Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	1	—	1
	uterus (F)	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	1	1
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	6	6	12
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	3	1	4
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	15	12	27
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	25	31	56
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	2	4	6
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	4	8
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	5	13
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	—	3	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	5	3	8
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	1	2	3
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	...	...	...	2	1	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	6	5	11
ALL CAUSES					87	85	172

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES.

TABLE NO. 2.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	.15	5	.39	22	1.75	61	4.86	20	1.59
1947	2	.16	3	.23	25	1.96	93	7.31	17	1.33
1948	nil	—	5	.39	19	1.48	87	6.81	13	1.01
1949	nil	—	3	.23	16	1.23	89	6.86	22	1.69

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.

TABLE NO. 3.

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total births (live and still)		
1946	.39	22.32	105.02	1027.77
1947	.39	22.02	58.55	1055.55
1948	.54	30.56	72.07	947.36
1949	.38	23.80	51.28	1029.70

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	12,530	219	17.47	15	68.49	152	12.13
1947	12,720	222	17.45	7	31.49	189	14.85
1948	12,760	222	17.39	13	58.55	153	11.99
1949	12,960	205	15.81	8	39.02	172	13.27

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1949. TABLE NO. 5.

	England and Wales		Wellingborough Rural District
Live Births	16.7		15.81
Stillbirths	0.39		.38
Deaths			
All causes	11.7		13.27
Typhoid Fever	0.00		0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01		0.00
Diphtheria	0.00		0.00
Influenza	0.15		0.23
Smallpox	—		—
Tuberculosis	0.45		0.23
Pneumonia	0.51		1.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01		0.07
Deaths under one year	32		39.02
Notifications			
Typhoid Fever	0.01		0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01		0.07
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.02		0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63		1.54
Whooping Cough	2.39		2.23
Diphtheria	0.04		0.00
Erysipelas	0.19		0.30
Measleas	8.95		2.71
Pneumonia	0.80		1.15
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13		0.38
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01		—
Food Poisoning	0.14		1.31
Smallpox	0.00		0.00

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1949. TABLE NO. 6.

<i>Age Periods</i>	New Cases				Deaths			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe-male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe-male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe-male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe-male</i>
—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
—35	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
—45	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	4	1	—	1	2	—	—

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1949.

TABLE No. 7,

<i>Disease</i>			January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	3	8	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	2	20
Pneumonia	...	...	2	3	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	15
Measles	...	...	—	—	5	2	3	3	16	6	—	—	—	—	35
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	7	6	1	5	2	2	2	2	—	2	29
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	12	1	—	—	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	5
Typhoid	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	...	...	3	7	25	9	4	12	25	10	20	4	2	7	128

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1949.

TABLE NO. 8.

<i>Disease</i>	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	4	11	2	—	1	—	1	—	20	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	1	3	4	15	—	13
Measles ...	3	5	3	6	4	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	35	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	3	—	5	9	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	5	—	—	2	1	—	—	4	3	1	17	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	5	—	1
TOTAL ...	6	8	10	11	18	36	7	2	6	8	11	5	128	—	14

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES, 1949.

TABLE No. 9,

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Para-typhoid	TOTAL
Bozeat	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	12
Doddington, Great ...	2	3	17	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Earls Barton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easton Maudit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ecton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Grendon	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hardwick	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Harrowden, Great ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrowden, Little ...	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Irchester	3	2	8	8	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	25
Isham	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mears Ashby	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Newton Bromswold ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Orlingbury	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	9
Strixton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sywell	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wilby	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wollaston	12	6	5	1	1	—	—	1	9	1	—	—	36
TOTALS	20	15	35	29	4	1	—	5	17	1	—	1	128

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

TABLE No. 10.

<i>Age Periods</i>	Measles		Whooping Cough	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
—6 months	1	—	1	—
—12 months	—	2	—	1
—18 months	—	1	1	1
—2 years	1	3	—	1
—2½ years	—	1	—	—
—3 years	2	—	—	—
—4 years	2	4	4	1
—5 years	1	3	3	7
—10 years	8	3	5	3
—15 years	—	2	1	—
15 years—	—	1	—	—
ALL AGES	15	20	15	14
TOTALS	35		29	

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

TABLE NO. 11.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Ages in Weeks</i>					
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	<i>Total</i>
1. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
2. Diseases of Early Infancy— Congenital debility and icterus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	1	—	—	—	3
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	1	1	—	—	—	2
3. Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	2	2
4. Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diseases of Nervous System ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other Violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	2	—	—	2	8

SUMMARY OF HOUSING SURVEY FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

A.—Survey of Existing Houses.

1.	Estimated number of working class houses in the District	3,978
2.	Number of houses surveyed to 31st December, 1946 ...	3,089
3.	Results of Survey as revealed by Officers :—	
(a)	Satisfactory on all respects	685
(b)	Minor defects	1,060
(c)	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement— not eligible for assistance under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	714
(d)	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement —eligible for assistance under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	11
(e)	Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reason- able expense	619
(f)	Number of houses deemed to be overcrowded (for pur- poses of this statement it is not expected that rooms will be measured)	64

PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

B.—Housing Programme.

1.	Number of houses proposed to be erected as approved by the Ministry of Health to date	278
2.	(a) Number of sites concerning which lay-out plans and house plans have been approved by the Ministry of Health	46
	(b) Number of houses contained in such approved lay-outs	278
3.	Superficial area plans approved, determined in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Standards for New Houses adopted by the Joint Committee :—	
	(a) Non-parlour types	
	{ 2 bedrooms I type square feet ...	800
	{ 3 " H " " " " " ...	937
	{ G " " " " " " ...	914
	{ F " " " " " " ...	912
	{ D " " " " " " ...	850
	(b) Parlour type	
	{ 3 bedrooms B " " " " " " ...	900
	{ Duplex E " " " " " " ...	903
4.	(a) Number of houses for which tenders have been invited	62
	(b) Number of houses for which negotiated prices have been obtained	216
5.	Number of houses the erection of which have begun ...	278

D.—Temporary Accommodation.

1.	(a) Have your Authority been allocated any temporary prefabricated houses, if so, state number and type ...	No
	(b) Number of sites secured.	
2.	Local Authority's site preparation :—	
	(a) Tenders invited ?	} Not applicable.
	(b) Tenders accepted ?	
	(c) Works begun ?	
	(d) Sites completed ?	
3.	Number of houses in respect of which :—	
	(a) Assembly has begun	} Not applicable.
	(b) Assembly has been completed	

TABLE No. 13.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1448
Slaughterhouses on Register	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Slaughtermen Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	284
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	76
Number of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	28
Food condemned as unfit for human consumption	...	...	...	...	...	1292 lbs.
Premises Licensed to sell Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	30
Samples of Ice Cream taken	...	...	...	...	...	3
Licences issued under Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936 and 1938	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cowsheds on Register	...	...	...	...	...	90
Number of Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	165
Cowsheds, defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	23
Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	36
Blocked sewers and drains	...	...	...	...	...	30
Insanitary drainage	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective ventilating shafts	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insanitary ditches	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	18
Caravans inspected	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insanitary Closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insanitary Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	17
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive effluvia	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke and dust nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Premises infested with bugs, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	7

Nuisances from defects in houses :—

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dangerous stairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective doors and windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Plaster to repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Damp and defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Damp and defective walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective eaves guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective sinks and wastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Notifications of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	40
Number of rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	56
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective wells	...	...	...	...	...	2
List of Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Registration of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	2

MILK SAMPLES.

TABLE NO. 14.

<i>Month</i>				<i>Good</i>	<i>Classification Moderate</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	...	...	...	11	—	1	12
February	...	...	...	6	—	—	6
March	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
April	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
May	...	...	...	5	1	—	6
June	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
July	...	...	...	6	—	—	6
August	...	...	...	2	1	3	6
September	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
				30	2	4	36

SUMMARY OF RESULT OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

TABLE NO. 15.

<i>Parish</i>				<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>RESULT</i>		
					<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Bad</i>
Bozeat	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Doddington, Great	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Earls Barton	...	...	...	10	5	3	2
Easton Maudit	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ecton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Grendon	...	...	...	4	2	2	—
Hardwick	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Harrowden, Great	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Harrowden, Little	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Irchester	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Isham	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
Mears Ashby	...	...	...	1	—	—	1*
Newton Bromswold	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
Orlingbury	...	...	...	2	1	1	—
Strixton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sywell	...	...	...	2	—	1*	1*
Wilby	...	...	...	15	1	8	6
Wollaston	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	41	16	15	10

* Well Water.

Above Table does not account for samples taken at source of supply received from other authorities. Results of samples taken by the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Board, Wellingborough U.D.C. and Northampton Borough from these sources were satisfactory.

TABLE NO. 16.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, for the year 1949.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspection</i> (4)	<i>Written notices</i> (5)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	26	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	3	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	52	29	5	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	6	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	8	3	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i> (1)	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out- workers in August list re- quired by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i> (3)	<i>No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council</i> (4)	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i> (5)	<i>No. of instances of work in un- whole- some premises</i> (6)	<i>Notices served</i> (7)	<i>Prosecu- tions</i> (8)
Wearing apparel—						
Making, etc.	35	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	38	—	—	—	—	—

